

## PCT

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b> See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/FR2003/002008	International filing date (day/month/year) 27 juin 2003 (27.06.2003)	Priority date (day/month/year) 28 juin 2002 (28.06.2002)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC C02F 1/48		
Applicant SA DESCHAMPS-LATHUS		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.
- ☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of \_\_\_\_\_ sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 29 décembre 2003 (29.12.2003)	Date of completion of this report 23 November 2004 (23.11.2004)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/FR2003/002008

## I. Basis of the report

## 1. With regard to the elements of the international application:\*

- ☐ the international application as originally filed
- ☒ the description:  
pages \_\_\_\_\_ 1-20 \_\_\_\_\_, as originally filed  
pages \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the demand  
pages \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_
- ☒ the claims:  
pages \_\_\_\_\_ 1-13 \_\_\_\_\_, as originally filed  
pages \_\_\_\_\_, as amended (together with any statement under Article 19  
pages \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the demand  
pages \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_
- ☒ the drawings:  
pages \_\_\_\_\_ 1/3-3/3 \_\_\_\_\_, as originally filed  
pages \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the demand  
pages \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the sequence listing part of the description:  
pages \_\_\_\_\_, as originally filed  
pages \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the demand  
pages \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language \_\_\_\_\_ which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

## 3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the claims, Nos. \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/fig \_\_\_\_\_

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).\*\*

\* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rule 70.16 and 70.17).

\*\* Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

# INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/FR 03/02008

## V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

### 1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-13	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-13	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-13	YES
	Claims		NO

### 2. Citations and explanations

1. None of the cited documents relates to a method for treating pipelines containing stagnant water in order to remove contaminants.

The most relevant documents are:

D1: US-A-6 056 884, which describes the continuous pasteurisation of liquids in a device in which the liquid flows through an electrical field. D1 does not describe the formation of a closed loop or the dissipation of electrical energy into heat by Joule effect.

D2: US-A-5 241 147, which discloses the heat treatment of pipes by dissipating electrical energy into heat so as to prevent the formation of hydrates as well as to enhance the transport of liquids such as hydrocarbons.

D3: EP-A-0 685 987, which describes the pasteurisation of liquids in a device in which the conductive tubular reactor walls are connected to an electrical energy generator and said electrical energy is dissipated into heat. D3 does not

describe the formation of a closed loop or the generation of a variable magnetic current through said loop.

It follows that the subject matter of claims 1 and 4 is novel (PCT Article 33(2)).

2. The problem that the present invention is intended to solve is that of overcoming the drawbacks of the known method for the heat treatment of the domestic water supply system (see the description, page 2, lines 17-20).

The solution to this problem, as proposed in claims 1 and 4 of the present application, is advantageous in that it involves local heat treatment. This makes it possible to treat only those parts of the system in which bacteria are likely to develop, namely pipelines containing stagnant water. Such local treatment enables energy consumption to be reduced and does not require the system to be put out of service while the method is being carried out.

As a result, this solution is considered to involve an inventive step (PCT Article 33(3)).

3. The dependent claims also fulfil, as such, the PCT requirements of novelty and inventive step.